

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes, comprising:

determination means for determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time; and

operation mode shifting means for automatically shifting to any one of the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result of said determination means,

wherein when said operation mode shifting means shifts the operation mode, the sheet processing apparatus is controlled to function a sheet storage unit corresponding to the operation mode after the shift processing of said operation mode shifting means among the plurality of sheet storage units.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of operation modes include a copying mode, facsimile mode, and printer mode.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises a user interface including a display device commonly used in the respective modes, and

when said operation mode shifting means shifts the

operation mode, display control is performed to display a display window corresponding to the operation mode after the shift on the display device in synchronism with the control of the sheet processing apparatus.

5     4.     The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising first setting means for performing setting of executing shift processing of the operation mode by said operation mode shifting means.

10    5.     The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second setting means for performing setting of assigning any one of the plurality of operation modes to each of the plurality of sheet storage units.

15    6.     A control method for an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes, comprising:

the step of determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time; and

20    the step of automatically shifting to any one of the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result in the determination step,

wherein when the operation mode is shifted in the operation mode shifting step, the sheet processing apparatus is controlled to function a sheet storage unit  
25    corresponding to the operation mode after the shift processing in the operation mode shifting step among the

plurality of sheet storage units.

7. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units and has a plurality of operation modes, to execute the following steps, comprising:

the step of determining whether a no-operation state by an operator continues for a predetermined time; and

10 the step of automatically shifting to any one of the plurality of operation modes on the basis of a determination result in the determination step,

wherein when the operation mode is shifted in the operation mode shifting step, the sheet processing apparatus is controlled to function a sheet storage unit corresponding to the operation mode after the shift processing in the operation mode shifting step among the plurality of sheet storage units.

8. An image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes,

wherein said image forming apparatus can discharge a sheet of an image formation job to a sheet storage unit corresponding to an operation mode of the image formation job among the plurality of sheet storage units, said apparatus comprising:

operation mode shifting means for automatically shifting an operation mode of a final image formation job to a preset operation mode before a new job is input,

wherein the sheet processing apparatus is controlled  
5 to execute setting of a sheet storage unit corresponding to the preset operation mode along with the shift of the operation mode by said operation mode shifting means before the new job is input.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein  
10 said apparatus further comprises display control means capable of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes, and

when said operation mode shifting means shifts the  
15 operation mode, display control is performed to display a display window corresponding to the preset operation mode on the display device in synchronism with the control of the sheet processing apparatus.

10. An image forming apparatus which can be connected to  
20 a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes,

wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage units, said apparatus comprising:

25 display control means capable of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display

device independently for the respective operation modes,

wherein when a display window corresponding to any one of the plurality of operation modes is to be displayed on the display device, setting of a sheet storage unit  
5 corresponding to the operation mode of the window to be displayed is executed in synchronism with display control of said display control means.

11. A control method for an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a  
10 plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes,

wherein the image forming apparatus can discharge a sheet of an image formation job to a sheet storage unit corresponding to an operation mode of the image formation  
15 job among the plurality of sheet storage units, said method comprising:

the step of automatically shifting an operation mode of a final image formation job to a preset operation mode before a new job is input; and

20 the step of controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to execute setting of a sheet storage unit corresponding to the preset operation mode along with the shift of the operation mode in the operation mode shifting step before the new job is input.

25 12. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing an image forming apparatus which can

be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units and has a plurality of operation modes, to execute the following steps,

5 wherein the image forming apparatus can discharge a sheet of an image formation job to a sheet storage unit corresponding to an operation mode of the image formation job among the plurality of sheet storage units, said medium comprising:

10 the step of automatically shifting an operation mode of a final image formation job to a preset operation mode before a new job is input; and

15 the step of controlling the sheet processing apparatus so as to execute setting of a sheet storage unit corresponding to the preset operation mode along with the shift of the operation mode in the operation mode shifting step before the new job is input.

13. A control method for an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units, and has a plurality of operation modes,

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wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage units, said method comprising:

25 the step capable of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes; and

the step of, when a display window corresponding to any one of the plurality of operation modes is to be displayed on the display device, executing setting of a sheet storage unit corresponding to the operation mode of the window to be displayed in synchronism with display control in the display control step.

14. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing an image forming apparatus which can be connected to a sheet processing apparatus having a plurality of sheet storage units and has a plurality of operation modes, to execute the following steps,

wherein any one of the plurality of operation modes can be assigned to each of the plurality of sheet storage units, said medium comprising:

the step capable of displaying display windows corresponding to the operation modes on a display device independently for the respective operation modes; and

the step of, when a display window corresponding to any one of the plurality of operation modes is to be displayed on the display device, executing setting of a sheet storage unit corresponding to the operation mode of the window to be displayed in synchronism with display control in the display control step.